Appendix D

Scoping Meeting Presentation

Agenda

- Welcome
- Introductions
- Project Overview
- Meeting Purpose
- Environmental Review Process
- Opportunities for Public Comment

Who Are We?

- **Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**
  - **John Dalton,** California Desert District
  - **Sean Hagerty,** California State Office
  - **Daniel Steward,** Acting Field Office Manager, El Centro Field Office
- **Ecology and Environment, Inc.**
  - **David McIntyre,** Consultant on behalf of BLM
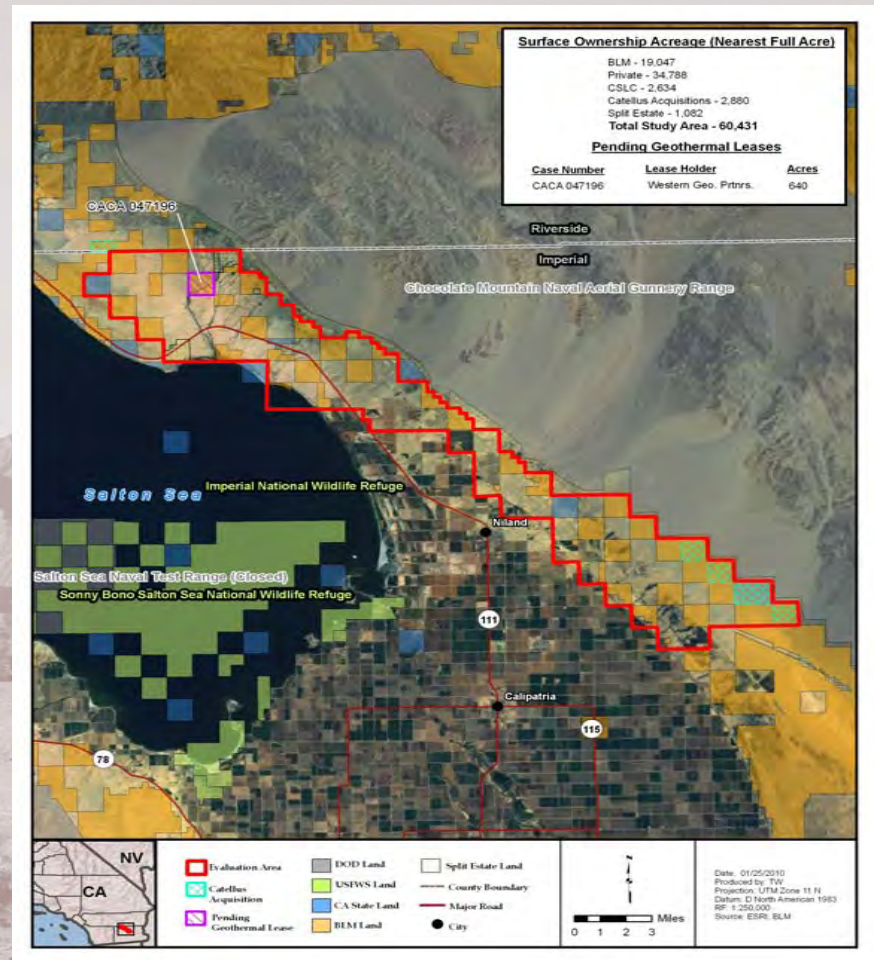
Project Overview

Purpose and Need

- **Assess whether BLM-managed lands within the West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area should be made available for renewable energy development**

- **CDCA Plan Amendment**

- **Implement Energy Policy Act of 2005**

- **Assist the State in meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standard**

Project Overview

Project Location

1 mile east of Niland, CA, and extends 16 miles to the northwest and 10 miles to the southeast of Niland

Project Overview

- **West Chocolate Mountains Renewable Energy Evaluation Area**
  - **59,095 acre Evaluation Area**
  - **19,700 acres of BLM-managed surface land**
  - **3,200 acres of California State Lands Commission land**
  - **33,333 acres of private land; including 1,262 acres of split-estate land (private surface/federal minerals)**
  - **2,862 acres of land acquired from the Catellus Corporation**

- **Preliminary BLM-Identified Issues**
  - **Threatened, endangered and special status species;**
  - **Sensitive vegetation communities;**
  - **Special area designations;**
  - **Visual resources;**
  - **Water quality and quantity, and;**
  - **Areas of high potential for renewable energy development.**

Reasonably Foreseeable Development Scenario for Renewable Energy

Solar

Wind

Geothermal

Geothermal Development

Geothermal Reasonably Foreseeable Development (RFD) Scenario

- **Three (3) 50-megawatt (MW) geothermal power plants would be constructed and operated within the West Chocolate Area.**
- **Estimated surface disturbance:**

BLM Disturbance (acres)	Total Disturbance (acres)
339 (initial)	1,026 (initial)
310 (final)	938 (final)

Solar Energy Development

- **Solar RFD Scenario**
  - **Twelve (12) 150 MW photovoltaic (PV) Solar Plants or**
  - **Nine (9) Solar Thermal (parabolic trough) Plants**

  - **Estimated surface disturbance:**

BLM Disturbance (acres)	Total Disturbance (acres)
5,760	18,000

Wind Energy Development

- **Wind RFD Scenario**
    - **45 MW of wind energy.**
    - **1 Turbine per 3 MW or 15 turbines for 45 MW**

    - **Estimated surface disturbance:**

BLM Disturbance (acres)	Total Disturbance (acres)
25.84 (initial)	76 (initial)
13.6 (final)	40 (final)

Project Alternatives

BLM is required to evaluate a reasonable range of alternatives

Leasing Geothermal, Solar and Wind Leases

Full Geothermal and Solar, No Wind Leases

Full Geothermal, Partial Solar and No Wind Leases

Full Solar Lease Only

Full Geothermal Lease Only

Why Are We Here?

- **BLM is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)**
- **Present project overview**
- **Allow the public to provide BLM information and identify concerns**
- **Use this information to develop and analyze the project**

Environmental Review

- **The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency.**

Preparation of the EIS

- **Notice of Intent Published (February 10, 2010)**

- **30 Day Scoping Period (Feb 10, 2010 to March 19, 2010)**

- **Draft EIS and Public Comment Period (90 days; anticipated Summer 2010)**

- **Final EIS (Fall 2010)**

- **Record of Decision (60 days after Final EIS; anticipated Winter 2010/2011)**

NEPA Objectives

- **Allow the public to identify concerns**
- **Identify reasonable alternatives for analysis**
- **Analyze environmental impacts of proposed project and alternatives**
- **Identify ways to avoid or reduce environmental impacts**
- **Provide BLM with information so a decision can be made after the EIS is complete**

Where to Send Your Comments

Send written comments to:

> BLM California Desert District Office
>
> Attn: John Dalton
>
> 22835 Calle San Juan de Los Lagos,
>
> Moreno Valley, CA 92553

Submit e-mail comments to: cawestchocolate@ca.blm.gov

Scoping comments will be accepted through March 19, 2010

Thank You!